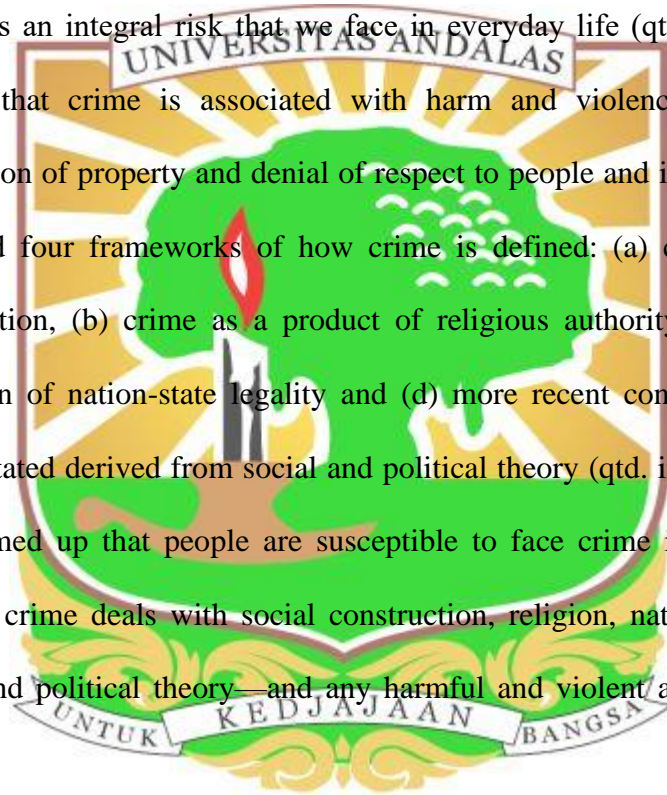


## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of The Research

Crime cannot be separated from human life since the beginning of human's history, as stated in Wayne Morrison's simple definition of crime; "crime is an integral risk that we face in everyday life (qtd. in Hale 3). He defines that crime is associated with harm and violence to individuals, destruction of property and denial of respect to people and institutions and he specified four frameworks of how crime is defined: (a) crime as a social construction, (b) crime as a product of religious authority, (c) crime as a reflection of nation-state legality and (d) more recent concepts beyond the nation-state derived from social and political theory (qtd. in Hale 12). It can be summed up that people are susceptible to face crime in their daily life because crime deals with social construction, religion, nation-state legality, social and political theory—and any harmful and violent are identified as a crime.



The stories of criminal acts are expressed into literary work which is known as crime fiction. Crime fiction is a genre in a literature which depicts crime or mysterious events as a central plot in its stories. It deals with crime and anything associated with it such as the perpetrators and their motives, the victims, the detectives, and their detections and clues. This genre also draws

close similitudes with detective genre, because detective fictions are a sub of crime one (Scagg 145); where there is a crime, there is always detective to solve it. It represents the popular plot in crime that is dealing with the details of an investigation and its end result.

Nowadays, crime fiction is one of the most popular literary genres because in crime fiction, the readers are engaged and they tend to feel they are part of the investigation (Danyte 5); once you read, you will keep reading it until finish. Usually, the hero in such crime stories is the detective but in rare cases, the perpetrator can also be the central figure of the story. For instance, the novels *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie and *Out* by Natsuo Kirino. Both of these novels are the subjects of this research.

*Murder on the Orient Express* is a novel written by the Queen of Crime (Wynne 29) Agatha Christie; published in 1934 by Collins Crime Club in the United Kingdom and by Dodd, Mead, and Company in the United States. It tells about a murder of Mr. Ratchett, one of the passengers in The Orient Express. Hercule Poirot, a famous Belgian detective, takes the case to solve the murder and identify the killer. Poirot's investigation led him to discover Mr. Ratchett's real identity and his dark past. Poirot discovers that the assassination is set by a woman named Mrs. Hubbard and everyone on the train helps her in accomplishing the murder plan. In 2017, this novel is adapted into a film which is directed by Kenneth Branagh.

Meanwhile, *Out* is a novel written by a Japanese author, Natsuo Kirino which was published in Japan in 1997 followed by publication in English in 2004. Kirino won the Grand Prix Award for *Out* in 1998. She is one of the most talented and successful crime fiction writer in Japan and she is considered a feminist writer (Shan 94). *Out* tells about four housewives who live in Tokyo's suburb. They work night shift in a bento (boxed-lunch) factory. One of them named Yayoi strangles her husband named Kenji, with his own belt. She confides in with her friends and they agree to help Yayoi to eliminate his body by cutting it up and dispose it around suburban Tokyo. The policemen found part of his body near a garden and start to track the killer. A nightclub owner named Satake is accused to be the murderer because he has a fight with Kenji a day before he died. Ultimately, the police release him for the lack of evidence. In the meantime, he has lost his club and tracks the real killer in order to revenge. Then, a loan shark who knows the secret of these four women blackmails them and set up a sideline eliminating of other corpses.

These novels show the involvement of women in crime. They incorporate similarities and differences. The similarities are that Christie and Kirino create more women as perpetrators instead of victims. The second similarity is the boundary of sisterhood and their motives for committing crimes are quite similar and the female characteristic of manipulation, where the women are manipulating and being manipulated. Meanwhile, the

differences are in terms of the cultural background and social condition that are depicted in these novels. Kirino depicts working-class women, while Christie depicts the upper and middle classes.

The involvement of women in crime is related to the patriarchal concept and social construction which placed women in the second position in society. Gender is a social construct that is embedded within women's history offering a conceptual tool to explore the constructions of sexual difference that are engrained in all societies (Startup 20). One of the most important factors that play a significant role in different kinds of crime is gender. Gender stereotype of women in patriarchal society highlighted that women are regarded as a weak creature which makes them tend to be victims of crimes. Nevertheless, most of the findings in criminology stated that females commit much fewer crimes and juvenile delinquency than men (Heimer&Coster 2918). It proves that besides being victims, women also commit crimes as men do even though at low rates and break the stereotype which stated they are weak in society. Jensen in his book *Women Criminals* has mentioned some notorious women criminals in history. One of them is Ma Barker from the United States during the great depression who headed the Barker-Karpis gang which has committed several crimes (303). While in Japan, the most shocking crime was committed by Masumi Hayashi where she poisoned 63 people resulted in four deaths and many hospitalized (453).





The women who are depicted in *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Out* forma group and involve in crime in order to fight the patriarchal culture by ignoring the norms in society. Christie and Kirin present strong female characters in their novels. They are brave novelists who mixed felonies and feminism in their novels.

Based on the explanation above, I think it is interesting to analyze these novels because the female characters play a significant role in a crime and appear as both victims and perpetrators. The interesting aspect of these works is the authors' depiction of women in crime that maintain the real identity of the women who commit the crime. In conducting this research, I apply Sociology of Literature by Alan Swingewood, Gynocriticism by Elaine Showalter and General Strain Theory by Robert Agnew and Lisa Broidy.

## 1.2. The Identification of the Problem

In some literary works, female characters seem to be incompatible with crime because of the stereotype of women, their appearance and their behavior. But, Agatha Christie and Natsuo Kirino as female writers lifted the idea about the involvement of women in crime in their novels. They create the female characters who brave to commit crimes. In *Murder on the Orient Express*, the story itself is male-oriented. The story focuses on the male detective named Hercule Poirot who runs the investigation to solve a murder. But it got in relation that the story perpetrated by women who commit crime that the main focus of the story. In contrary, the story in *Out* is female-

oriented where the detectives play limited role in investigations. It focuses on four Japanese women who work in bento factory and eventually they commit crime. The female characters who depicted in these novels forming a group and get involve in crime. They do this in order to fight various threats, pressure, and even violence from men and society. On the other words, women's struggle to face their problems and society that is not always kind to women can bring out another figure of them. The female characters are described as not passive and not the object of men. Thus, Christie and Kirino show that the female characters can do an extreme thing, coming out from their comfortable zone and independent. Furthermore, the analysis focuses on the causes and types of women's crime and the depiction of women in crime in these novels.

### 1.3. The Scope of the Research

In this research, I focus on some parts of these novels that show women in crime. In criminality, women can be victims but also can be the perpetrators. The research will be more focus to analyze women as perpetrators instead of victims. In *Murder on the Orient Express*, the female characters are represented by Mrs. Hubbard, Mary Debenham, Princess Dragomiroff, Hildegard Schmidt, and Greta Ohlson. Meanwhile, in novel *Out* will be represented by Masako Katori, Yayoi Yamamoto, Yoshie Azuma, and Kuniko Jonouchi. Furthermore, I limit this research into three discussion. First, I focus on the causes of female's crime. The second discussion will be focus on the

types of women's crime which differ them from male's crime. Lastly, I also analyze how the authors portray women who commit crime that depicted in the novels.

#### 1.4. Research Questions

The issue of women's involvement in crime in the two novels shares similarities and differences. There are some research questions in this research:

1. What are the causes of women doing crime in novel *Murder on The Orient Express* and *Out*?
2. What are the types of women's crime in *Murder on The Orient Express* and *Out*?
3. How do the authors portray female in crime in *Murder on The Orient Express* and *Out*?

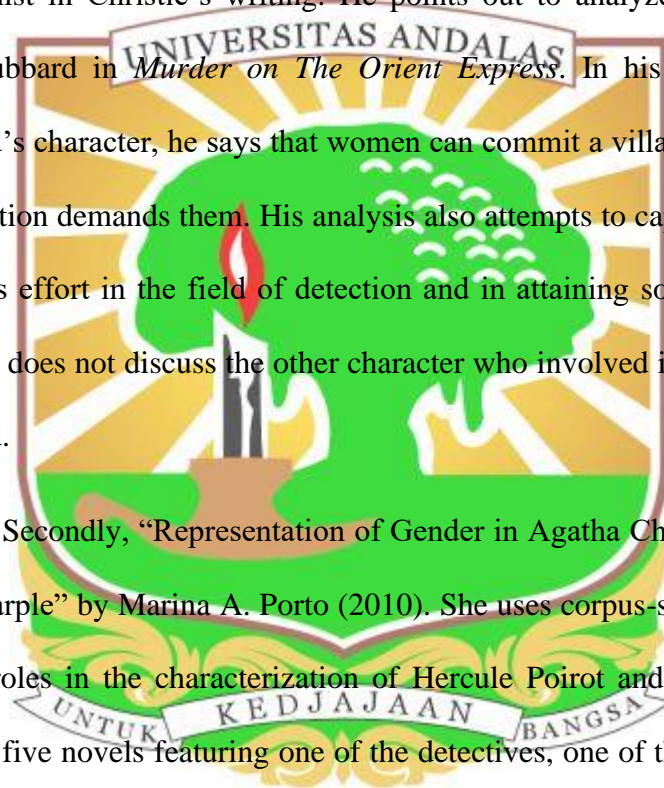
#### 1.5. The Objective of the Research

This research attempts to examine women who commit crimes in *Murder on The Orient Express* and *Out*. The discussing point of this research the reasons or factors why women commit crimes or the cause they are being the perpetrators, the types of women's crimes and how the authors portray the female characters as the female writers. I do hope my research will enrich people's knowledge and be helpful for another researcher in further literary research.

## 1.6. Review of Related Studies

The first is an article presented by M. Parthiban (2017) entitled “Avenues of Agatha Christie’s Gendered Criminal Exuberance”. He uses feminist criticism in analyzing the female character in this novel. He highlights that women also have potentials as detectives, criminals, and protagonist in Christie’s writing. He points out to analyze the character of Mrs. Hubbard in *Murder on The Orient Express*. In his analysis of Mrs. Hubbard’s character, he says that women can commit a villainous crime when the situation demands them. His analysis also attempts to capture a glimpse of women’s effort in the field of detection and in attaining social equality with men. He does not discuss the other character who involved in crime with Mrs. Hubbard.

Secondly, “Representation of Gender in Agatha Christie’s Poirot and Miss Marple” by Marina A. Porto (2010). She uses corpus-stylistic to analyze gender roles in the characterization of Hercule Poirot and Jane Maple. She selected five novels featuring one of the detectives, one of them is *Murder on The Orient Express*. She presents the changes of the social situation in England in late-Victorian. She views gender not as an innate quality but acquired social status through interaction. She says that Christie presenting characters that have female characteristics and manly one. Both men and





women can have aspects of masculinity and femininity. In short, she only focuses on Christie's detective characters and their roles in society.

Third, Raechel Lynn Dumas (2011) in her thesis "Domesticity, Criminality, and Part-Time Work: The Laboring Body in Kirino Natsuo's *Auto*<sup>1</sup>" examines the relationship between economic trends and social inequalities in contemporary Japan by using Marxism. She also explores the way Kirino underscores that the capitalist trends have served the problematic relationship between Japanese labor practices and modern identity politics which is represented by the working-class characters in this novel. In her thesis, Dumas scrutinizes Kirino's portrayals of laboring bodies of male and female, Japanese and non-Japanese and this analysis also seeks to undermine the justification for the very public problem of labor inequality in Japan. Dumas argues that the embracement of criminal labor that is portrayed by the housewives symbolizes their liberation from Japan's capitalist, cultural politics and undermines the conventional justification for the sexual division of labor. This thesis might support this research about the cause of crime that happened in contemporary Japan.

Fourth, the article entitled "Inside Out: Space, Gender and Power in Kirino Natsuo" by Amanda C. Seaman (2013). Seaman explores a number of gendered constructions of space which are represented by male and female

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<sup>1</sup> Auto is Japanese word for out

worker in Kirino's novel and puts the social and economic condition that underlie them. She states that Kirin explores her main character lack of political and economic power and focused on women who are burdened by the task of caring for their family, lack of education and employment skills, and are not attractive. She also examines the suffering of each female characters in this novel and how they find a way to out from such circumstances that shackle them. This article is helpful for my research because it focuses on the female characters even though it does not talk about crime.

Fifth, Hadar Aviram (2011) with his article "Dainty Hands: Perceptions of Women and Crime in Sherlock Holmes Stories". In this article, Aviram gives some explanation related to women and crime in Sherlock Holmes stories and uses the theory of women's criminality by Freda Adler, Rita Simon, Cesare Lombroso and Chivalry theory by Manheim. He focuses on discussing several notable views from Sherlock Holmes stories. First, female offenders' stereotypes, female who is almost trapped in situations of powerlessness and comes from a variety of social classes. Second, the characters who practice relative freedom are often unmarried, have independent wealth or careers. These unusual backgrounds often explain these female characters' ability to escape within the oppressive British class system. Another important thing is the lack of a clear distinction between the



attributes and patterns of female criminality and victimization. He analyzes four patterns of the Sherlock Holmes stories that place women in a variety of situations involving criminality and victimization: Captives, Protectors, Muses, and Entrepreneurs. This article is very helpful for this research because Aviram explains the topic in detail and discuss the same topic.

Sixth, Megan Deann Lease (2010) in her thesis “Beautiful Blemishes: Gender and Female Criminality in Four Victorian Novels” analyzes the relationship between gender and female criminality in Adam Bede, Tess of the D’Urbervilles, Lady Audley’s Secret and Armadale. She argues that in Victorian literature, female criminals are represented as dangerous, un-English, unwomanly, and in need of control in order to protect male homosocial bonding and the buttress of patriarchy. She examines the working-class female criminals in Adam Bede and Tess of the D’Urbervilles are caught and punished publicly for their crime, while the middle-class women in Lady Audley’s Secret and Armadale are more deceptive, demonstrating the ability to reverse the patriarchal gaze, and they suffer for their crime against patriarchy. This thesis might help this research in comparing the criminality which has done by upper-middle class and working-class women.

Seventh, the thesis of Renaldo Hidayat (2018) from English Department, Andalas University entitled “Crimes in *Of Mice and Men* by

John Steinbeck”. His thesis focuses on crimes that happened in the Great Depression era in the United States in the 1930s. He applies sociology of literature and supported by strain theory by Robert K. Merton which is developed by Robert Agnew. He finds that there is a tendency of white people to commit crime because of the social expectation in that time which oppress them. On the contrary, African-American men can adapt to that condition. In part of violent crime analysis in this thesis, he mentioned one of the female criminals named Stephanie St. Clair who ran criminal activity in Harlem. The rest of the female character is portrayed as a prostitute who depressed about their economic condition. It seems that the economy is the primary factor that leads people into a negative way. This thesis is useful for this research in analyzing the causes of crime and what kind of crime is committed by people during the great depression era in America.

Eighth, Kathleen Daly (2006) in her article “Feminist Thinking about Crime and Criminal Justice” states that through the second wave feminism, feminist scholars’ perspective began in explaining crime and criminal justice. It is attempted by those who become known as liberal feminists to describe the different roles between men and women in crime and criminal justice and point out their involvement in a crime. She explains this topic into three modes of feminist inquiry. The first mode is class-race-gender that refers to the interrelationship between multiple inequalities that structure identities and



action (3). Campbell and Chesney-Lind (qtd. in Daly) say that some feminist scholars argued that female criminality is viewed as resistance to victimization or as the criminalization of resistance. The second mode is doing gender which focuses on the situation, social practices, and interaction that socially construct gender and a gendered world. The third mode is sexed bodies that focus on sexual difference and the relationship between sex and gender as corporeal and cultural categories. At the end of this article, Daly states that feminist contribution to crime and criminal justice continue to expand. This article might help the reader to understand feminist contribution in explaining criminology.

Ninth, “Exploring Criminology in Literary Text: Robert Browning- an Example” by Afra Saleh Alshiban (2012). This article explores how to use criminological theory in literary texts. Alshiban says that literature and criminology are connected and inseparable. He uses Robert Browning’s “The Laboratory” as a case study to examine how criminological theory can be applied in literary texts. He analyzes Browning’s female sadistic criminal character by using Paul De River’s criminal psychology. Browning’s poem portrays an obsession woman who will do anything to restore her wounded pride, even commit murder to fulfill her desire. The primary motive of the murder is sexual jealousy. De River said that “Revenge, hatred, and jealousy are the very essence of the female sadistic criminal”. This article is useful for

this research because the case of study is a woman as the perpetrator in criminality. It is a good reference in analyzing literary texts by using criminological theory, even though he did not mention any literary theory.

Based on the reviews above, there are some types, cause, and characteristic of female offenders in committing crimes. Those sources might help in completing the analysis in the next chapter about the involvement of women in crime.

## 1.7. Theoretical Framework

This research refers to several theories in order to get deeper analysis. The sociological approach, gynocriticism, and general strain theory will be applied to analyzed these novels.

### 1.7.1. Sociology of Literature

According to Swingewood and Laurenson (1972), sociology and literature share a similar outline. Sociology is the scientific, objective study of man in society and social institution (11). As with sociology, literature is pre-eminently concerned with man's social world, the adaptation to it and desire to change it (12). There are three approaches to the sociology of literature. The most popular perspectives adopt the documentary aspect of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror of age. He stated that literature is a direct reflection of various facets of social structure, family relationship, class conflict, and possibly divorce trends and population composition (13). On the

other hand, the social problems of human life are reflected in the literary text. The second approach concerned with the literary work itself to the production side and social situation of the writer (17). It means that there is a relation between the author and his/her works. The third approach concern with the acceptance of literary work by society at a specific time (21). In this research, I apply the first perspectives in the context of crime as a social issue.

This research concerns on women in crime. In a patriarchal society, social construction has placed women in an inferior side. This construction makes women are susceptible to criminal acts and become victims. The feminist movements aim at achieving equality between men and women. So, they can reduce women's suffering. The feminist movement involves sociological and political theories concerning gender issues.

#### 1.7.2. Feminist Literary Criticism

This research applies feminist literary criticism. It is one of the literary criticism that is proposed by feminists to analyze literary works based on feminist concepts. According to Lois Tyson, "feminism examines the ways in which literature reinforce or undermine the economic, political, social and psychological oppression of women (83). In *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, Guerin *et al* state that feminism concerned with the marginalization of all women and relegate women in a second position (196). It means that in order to put man and woman in an equal position, the feminist criticize the society and culture that treat women unfairly.

In *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*, Selden *et al* say that Elaine Showalter has categorized three phases of women's writing: feminine phase, feminist phase, and female phase (127). Showalter divided feminist criticism into two varieties. The first type is women as a reader. In this type, a woman is the consumer of male-produced literature and the hypothesis of female reader changes the apprehension of a given text. The second type is women as a writer. It is known as gynocriticism which refers to women as the producer of textual meaning with the history, themes, genres, and structure of literature by women. Its subject includes the psychodynamics of female creativity. The aim of types is to analyze women's literature and to develop its writing based on female experience and free from male writing model (qtd. in Newton 216).

Gynocriticism provides four models that address the nature of women's writing: biological, linguistic, psychoanalytic, and cultural. The biological model stresses the importance of the body as a source of imagery along with a personal and intimate tone. The linguistic model addresses the differences between how men and women use language. The psychoanalytic model analyzes the female psyche and demonstrates the analysis of writing process of female writing as opposed to male writing's structure. The cultural model investigates how society shape's women's goals, responses, and points of view. Showalter believes that the model of women's culture can provide a more complete and satisfying way to talk about women's writing, because a



theory of culture besides incorporating idea about women's body, language, and psychic interpret them in relation to the social context in which they occur (Bressler 153). In doing this research, I use the fourth model of feminist criticism according to Elaine Showalter. To strengthen the analysis, I refer to a theory that is related to women's criminality.

### 1.7.3. General Strain Theory

In criminology literature, there are several versions of gender similarities and gender differences perspectives. Universal theories of crime have focused on the neighborhood, family, and peer contexts. Besides, several of criminological theories were developed using data with boys and men and then were generalized to include girls and women (Travis 72). In this research, crime was examined by using General Strain Theory by Robert Agnew. This theory is the developing of the previous theory—Classic General Theory by Robert K. Merton. This theory provides the explanation of difference stressor that leads male or female into criminality.

Robert Agnew and Lisa Broidy in their article *Gender and Crime: A General Strain Theory Perspective* states that General Strain Theory (GST) exploits the observation that females suffer from a range of oppressive condition and that is oppression is the root of their crime (276). In Applying GST to the explanation of crime by females, GST identifies three major sources of strain that is experienced by females (278):

1. The failure of achieve positively valued goals; economic and relational goals as well as the failure to be treated in a proper manner by others. On the other hand, females focus on how people treat them in interaction.
2. The loss of positively valued stimuli, including romantic partners, friends, and the opportunity to freely engage in a range of valued behavior.
3. The presentation of negatively valued stimuli. Females are subject to a wide of range abusive behavior—verbal, sexual and physical. Females experienced other aversive condition at home, work, and in their neighborhood and also gender-biased discrimination.

In the first type of strain, Agnew and Broidy also state that most test of strain theory measure strain in term of incoherence between aspiration and expectation. Aspiration is not the major source of strain because we do not suffer serious distress when we fail to achieve them. While, when we fail to achieve expectation is likely to be quiet upsetting because expectations are more rooted in reality (288).

In the second type of strain, the loss of positively valued stimuli such as the loss of family members and friends through death and the loss of intimate through divorce and separation is the major type of strain. Besides, female face certain barriers when it comes to behavior at work, family members, friends, and others. After being allowed to participate in a range of

masculine behavior, female suddenly faces pressure to adopt a feminine role (292).

In the third type of strain, females are often subject to several types of abuse by family and others including emotional, physical and sexual abuse. On the other hand, they are victims and face many types of negative treatment. These negative stimuli associated with the role of housewives and they also face discrimination in job (293).

The explanation on the second and third type of female stressor can be related to Freda Adler's theory in terms of negative stimuli. She states that female responsibilities for home maintenance still remain and with employment outside the home, additional stress will provide avenues for possible delinquency (qtd. in Armentrout 20). It means that female responsibilities at the home, work, and stress are the possible factors cause female offender. These types of strain pose few barriers to the self-destructive form of behavior such as drug use and criminal behavior compatible with female gender roles. In particular, victimized females appear most likely turn to crime when there are no or few legal options to deal with their abuse (Agnew and Broidy 294).

In sum-up, certain strain in society affects the behavior of women that lead them into crime. Women's oppression in various social arenas plays an important role in making of strain and criminal behavior. I use the types of strain experienced by women to analyze the cause of female's crime.

## 1.8. Method of the Research

A method is an important thing in conducting research. In doing this research, I apply the library research. According to Elmer E. Rasmuson “Library research involves the step-by-step process used to gather information in order to write a paper, create a presentation, or complete a project”. Moreover, I use comparative method in order to compare the two works, *Murder on The Orient Express* and *Out*, which share the similarities and differences.

In conducting the research, I follow three steps. Those steps are collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of the analysis. In collecting the data, I do the library research to collect the data that are related to the research and divide them into primary and secondary data. The primary data are obtained by reading *Murder on The Orient Express* by Agatha Christie and *Out* by Natsuo Kirino as the source of data. The secondary data are any information from various sources; books, articles, essays, and reviews which are related to topic of the research.

In analyzing the data, the data will be analyzed by using the Sociology of Literature Approach by Alan Swingewood to understand the correlation between the novels and the social condition in 1930s America and 1990s Japan which are represented in the novels. Then, I apply General Strain Theory by Robert Agnew and Lisa Broidy and Gynocriticism by Elaine Showalter to examine the involvement of women in crime. The method of analyzing data is



comparative method. A comparison is a tool of analysis that sharpens our power of description and plays a central role in concept-formation by bringing into focus suggestive similarities and contrast among cases (Collier 107). The analysis will be started by analyzing the cause that lead women into crime in *Murder On The Orient Express* and *Out* and their motives of commit crime will discover the type of females' crimes. It will be continued by analyzing the way of the authors portray women who get involved in crime in the novels.

The last step is presenting the result of the analysis. The presentation uses qualitative method. According to Robert C. Bogdan and Biken in their book *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods*, they stated that qualitative research is descriptive; collected the data is in the form of words or picture rather than numbers (28). It means that the data deals with a description, exploring the issues through words rather than numbers.

